

FAMILY SKELETONS.

Mary Ann Seaman's Millions Again to Be Contested For.

STARTLING DEVELOPMENTS

Promised by the One Hundred and Forty-Three Contestants for the Great Kingsbridge Estate—Was the Will a Forgery?

NEW YORK, Aug. 24.—Can Lawrence Drake hold the six million dollar property left him by his distant king's woman, Mary Ann Seaman, or will the other heirs be able to wrest it from him?

It is a battle of the giants. Twenty millions against six. One hundred and forty-three plaintiffs against 134 defendants. Cartloads and carloads of evidence. Fat fees for big lawyers. A cause celebre. Strange and startling allegations of crimes dark and deep. The curtain drawn aside from a household known to have led a queer life. All to be told under oath and retold in the newspapers that the world may see again how true it is that the love of money is the root of all evil.

What traveler on the Hudson River Railroad has not seen the great marble house standing sentinel on the heights above Inwood as the train pulled into Kingsbridge station? That it is the home of great wealth you could see at a glance. It was almost baronial in its dimensions, and a superb estate in land lay round about it. What peace and joy must abide in that great hall, between the Hudson and the Harlem, facing the Palisades and overlooking as grand a landscape as brush and canvas sought to steal!

TANGLED RELATIONSHIP.

So much for appearances. The reality, alas! is very different. The present possessor and occupant of the house is a man who holds a sorely questioned title to it. Strong hands are seeking to tear it away from him. He is accused of having got possession wrongfully, by deceit and undue influence, by forgery, perhaps, for so it will be contended, by subornation and bribery of witnesses—yes, even blacker crimes are hinted at in connection with that six million dollars.

"Lawrence Drake claims to have been the second cousin of Mrs. Seaman," said one of the contesting heirs yesterday. "Why, his grandfather's mother was only a half great-grand-aunt to him. He was a one-half second uncle's grandson."

"Benjamin Drake was the great-grandfather of Lawrence and the grandfather of Mary Ann Seaman. By his first wife he had three children, and she was the child of one of them. By his second wife he had thirteen, and Lawrence was the grandson of one of these. There are several heirs more closely related by blood, to say nothing of a brother-in-law."

Mrs. Seaman, like Mrs. Betty Green, was that *rara avis*, a business woman. Her mother before her, Mrs. Mary Meyer, who lived to be ninety, by shrewd investment had turned a moderate fortune, obtained partly by bequest and partly from a sailors' clothing house on Cherry street, into a large one, and Mary Ann pursued the same course. It is easy to get rich when you have once begun if you will sit still and wait for your acres to grow to feet front. Rent rolls are good workers in this time of ours.

She had been a noted beauty in her youth. She was proud of her descent from the famous admiral, Sir Francis Drake. She always remembered that fact long after she had forgotten the Cherry street shop. She married John P. Seaman at the age of thirty, but never permitted him to touch her fortune. He, wise man that he was, disposed of his during his life time (he died in 1872), so there never was any contested will or fat legal pickings over his estate. Mrs. Seaman approved of this course. She often said she would never make a will, but would let her property be divided according to law. This is one of the legs on which the charge of forgery will be asked to stand.

It may not have been strange, but it looked so, that shortly after the death of her husband the old lady, now over seventy years of age, became a seated book to the nearest of her kin. Relatives whom she had loved were denied admittance to her presence. They say that her mind was studiously poisoned against them by the intriguers who were seeking to gain possession of her vast fortune.

Lawrence Drake was installed in the great house as right hand man, and it is said that he ruled with a rod of iron. "Larry" was king. His will was law, and though she sometimes murmured the old lady obeyed it. The marble palace was a prison, say the contesting heirs, or rather an asylum for the insane.

SKELETONS IN THE CLOSET.

They are going to show it all, they say—the life in the marble prison—and some of it will be appalling. They will not foreshadow the evidence, for they do not wish to put ammunition in the hands of the adversary. Some of the facts in their possession he knows they have, but there are others, they claim, which he does not dream they are in possession of. Some witnesses, they say, have been paid to keep beyond the reach of summons, but they can still prove much, in spite of all.

That Mrs. Seaman's mind began to fail in her first widowhood, and that she finally became mentally incapacitated, the plaintiffs in the present suit will try to establish by voluminous testimony. In 1873 she fell off a gangway at Harlem Bridge and was nearly drowned. She smilingly said, when brought ashore, "Why, I could have sailed around for years without any harm." She consented after a time to reward the sailor who had rescued her, and gave him 25 cents. Subsequently she was persuaded to give him \$5.

In course of time, it is alleged, she began to harbor the delusion that Lawrence Drake owned the marble prison and that it was through his goodness of heart that she was permitted to live there. She spent hours dusting imaginary dust off the furniture. Then she would toss gold pieces into the air and leave them on the carpets. When callers came she would introduce them to the coins as if they were human beings. There were many occupants of the big house besides the large retinue of servants, and by a strange coincidence they are the ones whose names appeared for generous sums in the testament which is now questioned.

Mrs. Seaman was always very fond of dogs. Whenever one of them died she would have a handsome monument erected to its memory. She had strong sentiments regarding her own burial. "I want my coffin placed in the vault beside my husband's," she would say. "Then drop the key inside and leave us for the judgment day."

There were times when she would startle those about her by unexpected

bursts of shrewdness. "Yes, I know Lawrence Drake gives me the present," she said once, "but he buys them with my own money."

ALL FOR THE DRAKE

But when she died in 1878 three-fourths of her property was willed to Lawrence Drake and the remainder to James Crow, Frances Henrietta Hayt, Susan W. Anthony, Morgan Washburne, Charles Drake, Mary M. Drake, Benjamin Drake, Angelina E. Skidmore, Charles M. Drake, Thos. Drake, James Morgan, E. J. Drake, W. S. Treadwell, Augustus Drake Badeau, Abigail E. Rich and James Treadwell. In line, the Drake family was provided for and the Morgan family was left.

The will was contested before Surrogate Calvin on the ground of undue influence, but finally went to probate. The charge of forgery was then raised. The case was never appealed, and it has been discovered that ex-Mayor Smith M. Ely, counsel for the contestants, received \$5,000 from Lawrence Drake, it is alleged, for allowing the case to lapse until too late to appeal. There was not much money spent in this contest, as the wealthier relatives would not go in to the fight, but in the face of the new evidence they have organized for a big fight, and it is said that they represent an aggregate of \$20,000,000.

Some singular mishaps and fatalities have attended the plaintiffs in their present case. The more startling was the murder of Lawyer Townsend last November by being pushed off the Palisades, almost opposite the marble palace. Mr. Townsend was a kinsman of Mrs. Seaman. He had just been persuaded to join in the fight, and it is said, he had in his possession important evidence. Since Townsend's death several of the leading contestants have received threatening letters and Lawyer George W. Wilson, attorney for the contestants, got an anonymous postal card not long ago bearing the message: "Take care you do not follow Townsend."

Mr. Wilson says he is not afraid. The case is promised for trial in the near future.

SONS OF VETERANS.

The National Commandery in Session at Minneapolis—Rapid Growth of the Order.

MINNEAPOLIS, Aug. 24.—The tenth annual encampment of the Sons of Veterans began in this city to-day with about 5,000 members of the order in attendance. This includes, besides 500 members of the grand commandery, which is the executive body, a large number of visiting camps, who come to participate in the competitive drills. The commandery began its session at 2 o'clock this afternoon. Commander Webb furnishes the following statistics in advance from his annual address. During the year 20,463 members have been taken in; 552 new camps with 10,320 members were mustered in. The actual membership of the order to-day is quite 150,000. The order, founded in 1881, was first officially recognized in August 1889 by the Grand Army of the Republic and has since grown very rapidly. Gen. Webb outlined, as the most important business to come before the commandery at this session certain proposed changes in the ritual and constitution. The age limit for members will be raised from 18 to 21.

MONDAY'S BASE BALL.

League and Association Games Played Yesterday.

PITTSBURGH, Aug. 24.—The home team won a well played game to-day by superior fielding and timely hitting. Score: Pittsburgh.....0 0 0 2 2 0 0-6 Boston.....0 0 1 0 0 2 0-6

Hits, 5 and 7; errors, 1 and 4; pitchers, Baldwin and Nichols; umpire, McQuaid; earned, Pittsburgh 4, Boston 2.

BALTIMORE, Aug. 24.—The Baltimore changed their luck to-day and easily defeated Washington. Score: Baltimore.....0 0 0 0 0 2 0-3 Washington.....0 0 0 0 0 0 0-0

Hits, 11 and 3; errors, 1 and 3; pitchers, Madden and Duke; earned, Baltimore 2; umpire, Kerins.

CINCINNATI, O., Aug. 24.—Cincinnati hit Ewing hard enough to win an ordinary game, but New York came in with three hits in the seventh that scored two runs and won the game. Score: Cincinnati.....1 0 0 0 0 0 0-3 New York.....0 0 1 0 0 2 0-2

Hits, 11 and 3; errors, 5 and 1; earned, 2 each; pitchers, Rhines and Ewing; umpire, Emslie.

CHICAGO, Aug. 24.—Vickery pitched a good game to-day and allowed the Bridgegrooms but five hits. Score: Chicago.....1 0 2 0 0 0 0-4 Brooklyn.....0 0 0 0 0 1 0-1

Errors, 4 and 2; hits, 10 and 5; earned, Chicago 4; pitchers, Vickery and Caruthers; umpire, Lynch.

CLEVELAND, O., Aug. 24.—Good batting and plenty of it by the Philadelphia team won the game here to-day. Score: Cleveland.....0 3 0 1 0 0 0-3 Philadelphia.....1 0 2 4 1 0 0-12

Errors, 1 and 3. Hits, 7 and 17. Earned, 1 and 6. Pitchers, Young and Esper. Umpire, Hurst.

BOSTON, Aug. 24.—To-day's game was closely contested, but the Reds won by good fielding. Score: Boston.....1 0 0 1 2 0 1 0-5 Athletics.....2 0 0 0 0 1 0 0-3

Hits, 8 and 8. Errors, Athletics 3. Earned, 2 and 3. Pitchers, Haddock and Sanders and Sullivan. Umpire, Ferguson.

Saratoga Races.

SARATOGA, N. Y., Aug. 24.—To-day was the fifth extra day of the second meeting of the races here. The track was lumpy. First race—Five and a half furlongs, John Winkle won; time, 1:11. Second race—One mile, Belwood won; time, 1:45. Third race—Six furlongs, Lady Pulsifer won; time, 1:16. Fourth race—Five and a half furlongs, Worth won; time, 1:10. Fifth race—Seven furlongs, Salvini won; time, 1:31.

Garfield Park Results.

CHICAGO, Aug. 24.—Garfield Park results. Track deep in mud. First race—Three quarters of a mile, Bob McCarty won; time, 1:25. Second race—One mile and fifty yards, Blue Banner won; time, 1:32. Third race—Three quarters of a mile, Neva C. won; time, 1:24. Fourth race—One mile, declared off. Fifth race—Five-eighths of a mile, Ceverton won; time, 1:08. Sixth race—One mile and seventy yards, Ora won; time, 1:58.

West Virginia Pensions.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 24.—West Virginia Pensions: Original—Albert Sheets, James St. Clair, Morgan Smith. Additional—Alex. Sands, Enos D. Harden, Adam Ash, Henry F. Winker, Win. H. Beymer, Joseph Bobe, Albert M. Newman. Increase—John N. Postlethwait.

Reserve Agents Appointed.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 24.—The Comptroller of the Currency has approved the Depository National Bank of Baltimore, Md., and the German National Bank, as reserve agents for the Citizens' National Bank at Charleston.

THE BUILDING BOOM

Continues to Boom as no Boom ever Boomed in Wheeling.

MANY FINE BUILDINGS GOING UP

And others will be Commenced Soon.

Promise that next Season's Operations will be Even more Active than this—A Great Showing.

A gentleman who has spent most of the summer away from home returned this week. Yesterday he said to an INTELLIGENCER reporter that he was amazed when he drove about town yesterday and noticed the way things were booming. "When I left," said he, "the Stifel building on Main street was not completed and the new City Bank building was not begun. I found the elegant granite pile on Main street gay with life, and enough of the picturesque bank done to convince me that it will be when completed as fine a structure of the kind as I have seen in a pretty extensive tour this summer."

It is very true that the effect of the boom is largely lost on a person who is about town every day. Lately a lady who does not often get far from her home walked down Fifteenth street just in front of a reporter. At Eoff she found the street pretty nearly blocked by the work on the county jail building and Mr. A. Reymann's magnificent brown stone residence. The jail has not made great progress for a short time past, because of the delay in the arrival of steel I-beams; but Mr. Reymann's house is well up on the third story. At Chapline street St. James's church is making rapid progress. The front is up to the top of the huge central window, the frame of which is very pretty. The lady stopped her way carefully among the stones, stopped to admire the church and the new Boreman block of residences adjoining, and started down Fourteenth street. The new Public Library entrance stopped her again, and she remarked to her friend:

"My, I must really come down street oftener! I would not know that this was Wheeling in a few weeks more."

The walls of the new Jewish synagogue on Eoff street are up to the eaves, and some of the roof timbers are in place.

The addition to the Union school building is approaching completion rapidly.

The Schmulbach Company's new brewery goes up slowly. The solid and extensive character of the job precludes very rapid work.

Cox & Morrison have erected a large wooden shop adjoining the old Redmon machine shops, and a large force of boiler makers is kept very busy there. The new oil refinery across the creek is coming on nicely.

The excavation for the new Vigilant engine house is about done, and work on the superstructure will be under way soon.

The remodeling of the Cockburn block, adjoining the Rogers block, on Main street, is making good progress, and this will be a handsome building when the work is done.

Schaefer & Dreihorst's new five-story block on Main street, and T. T. Hutchison's new business house on the same street two squares further up are both growing rapidly.

Alex T. Young, the druggist, is completing a fine residence on Fourteenth street east of Jacob.

Work is fairly under way on the new Hildreth residences on Chapline street, south of Twelfth.

These are some of the most important building operations in progress. Architects and contractors say the prospect is fair for even a busier season next summer than this, and even this year the work is not nearly done. There are a number of important jobs not yet begun which it is the aim to have well along by cold weather.

The building boom on the South Side is still keeping up, and several houses are now approaching completion. Adolf Fritz is building the foundation of his new house at the corner of Forty-fourth and Jacob streets. When the house is finished Mr. Fritz's sons will occupy one floor as a butcher shop. Behrens and Speidel's addition, between Fortieth and Forty-first street, is being built up gradually. The outside of Dr. Ford's new house is almost completed, a handsome slate roof being one of the features of the building.

Louis Holmbright's new three-story brick makes a very handsome appearance, being now completed with the exception of the inside work. Mr. Holmbright will be able to move in by about October 1. The two handsome pressed brick fronts on Chapline street, between Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh, are rapidly approaching completion, and will be a much needed improvement to that block.

The J. G. Hoffman & Sons' tannery will soon be finished, the outside at least. It is a handsome building and when completed and equipped with all the modern improvements will be well adapted for the business.

GERMAN-CATHOLIC CONGRESS.

Arrangements for the Buffalo Session next month.

Mr. Charles K. Behler, the genial host of the Hotel Behler, returned last night from Pittsburgh, where he attended a meeting of the executive committee of the German-American Catholic Congress, which convenes in Buffalo on September 20. The meeting was held in the B. & O. railroad office.

Cheap hotel rates for the five days the Congress is to last, have been secured. The fare from Wheeling to Buffalo and return, will be \$5.85, from Pittsburgh \$4.50. Tickets will be good for five days. It is estimated that at least 200 people from Wheeling will visit Buffalo on this occasion and that 1,500 or 2,000 will leave Pittsburgh.

Drowned in the Lake.

LANSING, MICH., Aug. 24.—A distressing accident occurred at the lake pleasure resort nine miles east of Lansing Saturday evening. Three girls went out in a row boat, which upset and before they could be rescued Ida Smith aged 19, and Pearl Schooley, 11 years old, were drowned. Their companion, Kattie McCurdy, was saved. The bodies were recovered.

The Lake Erie Strike.

LA FAYETTE, IND., Aug. 24.—The situation in the Lake Erie strike remains unchanged. The new men refused to go to work, saying the situation had been misrepresented to them. United States Marshal Dunlap has sworn in a number of deputies, the sheriff has another lot, and the entire police force is being ordered to report this afternoon.

Dancing 25c and 5c at the Park to-day.

OUR OWN WAY.

The British Possessions Will Enjoy No Benefits from Spanish Reciprocity.

SARATOGA, N. Y., Aug. 24.—Gen. J. W. Foster is a guest at the Grand Union, where the President is stopping. The two have had some conferences on reciprocity matters. It is stated authoritatively, however, that there is no hitch in connection with the Spanish treaty and that none of its claims are the subject of dispute. Referring to the impression that England and Canada would derive equal benefits with the United States from the operations of our reciprocity treaty with respect to Cuba, Gen. Foster said:

"The official publication of the reciprocity arrangement with Spain, made in the Government Gazette, at Madrid, contains the announcement by the Minister of State that all the commercial treaties which Spain has with European governments have already been denounced, and that the last of them will cease to have any force on the 1st of July next. This declaration makes it clear that neither England, Canada nor any other of the British possessions will enjoy any of the benefits of the reciprocity arrangements as to Cuba after that date."

The German Minister is stopping at the United States Hotel. His presence here with that of Gen. Foster and the President is regarded as significant, in view of the efforts of the State Department to secure the readmission of American pork into Germany.

"PLAYED JAIL."

And Locked Their Playmates in a Chest Where They Were Found Dead.

IXONTO, ONTO, Aug. 24.—The mystery surrounding the tragedy of Friday, in which the three children of Mr. and Mrs. George Hamilton were found smothered to death in a chest in which they had been fastened, has been cleared up. Wilber Warnick, a playmate of the children, admitted to his mother that Kirke Urliche and a boy named Pemberton, together with himself, while playing "jail," locked the unfortunate children in the chest, and being called to supper shortly after, neglected to let them out. When told that Warnick had confessed the other boys told the same story. The mothers of the children are crazed with grief, but it is hardly likely that anything will be done in the matter, as none of the boys are older than eight years.

To Aid Jewish Refugees.

BALTIMORE, MD., Aug. 24.—At a meeting of directors of the Hebrew Benevolent Society and the Hebrew Hospital and Asylum Association, it has been decided to bond the realty owned by the association for \$250,000 for the protection of Jewish refugees from Russia. The officers of the associations will thus be enabled to enter bond for all refugees arriving at Baltimore.

A Fatal Mistake.

TACOMA, WASH., Aug. 23.—Two freight trains collided near Palmer, a small station on the Northern Pacific Railroad, thirty miles east of Tacoma, yesterday. Engineer David Young and Frank Cooper, of the west-bound train, were killed. The accident was caused by a mistake in orders.

EVERYTHING in the Shoe line at cost, on Wednesday and Thursday only, at A. G. WICKHAM'S, 1123 Main street.

Purify Your Blood

The importance of keeping the blood in a pure condition is universally known, and yet there are very few people who have perfectly pure blood. The taint of scrofula, salt rheum, or other foul humor is hereditary and transmitted for generations, causing untold suffering, and we also accumulate poison and germs of disease from the air we breathe, the food we eat, or the water we drink. There is nothing more conclusively proven than the power of Hood's Sarsaparilla over all diseases of the blood. This medicine, when fairly tried, does expel every trace of scrofula or salt rheum, removes the taint which causes catarrh, neutralizes the acidity and cures rheumatism, drives out the germs of malaria, blood poisoning, etc. It also vitalizes and enriches the blood, thus overcoming that tired feeling, and building up the whole system. Thousands testify to the superiority of Hood's Sarsaparilla as a blood purifier. Full information and statements of cures sent free.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Sold by all druggists. \$1; six for \$5. Prepared only by C. I. HOOD & CO., Apothecaries, Lowell, Mass.

100 Doses One Dollar

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NO BETTER FLOUR CAN BE MADE FROM WHEAT THAN.

MINNEHABA!

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—OF—

GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS

Below Actual Cost!

The entire stock of Gents' Furnishing Goods, Counters, Shelving, Show Cases and other store fixtures at No. 2127 Market street, (Ingh J. Whyte's store) is for sale at retail or in bulk below actual cost. Call early and get a bargain. Must be closed out within a few weeks.

JOHN A. HOWARD, Assignee of Ingh J. Whyte.

W. B. ALLISON.

FENCES, WINDOW GUARDS,

GOOTS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,

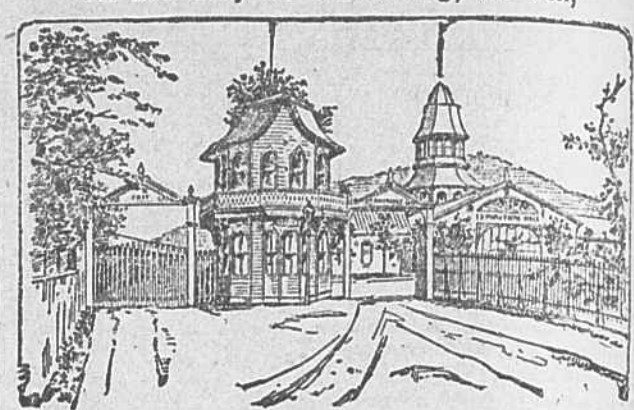
WORKS, 1707 Eoff Street.

Telephone 147.

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West Va. Exposition and State Fair!

At the City of Wheeling, W. Va.,



SEPTEMBER 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, '91

Fourteen Great Races.

A Magnificent Display of Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Swine, Poultry and Products of the Farm and Fireside.

GRAND BALLOON ASCENSION AND PARACHUTE JUMP, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, by the Famous Jewett Brothers.

Speed Entries Close August 31 at 11 p. m. Entries in All Other Departments Close September 8.

This will be Wheeling's Most Fashionable Event of the Season.

Address Secretary for Premium List or Other Information.

EXCURSION RATES ON ALL RAILWAYS.

A. REYMANN, President. GEO. S. OTTE, Secretary. GEO. HOOK, Treasurer.

NEW FALL DRESS GOODS.

J. S. Rhodes & Co.

NEW Fall Dress Goods NOW OPENED.

Colored and Black Bedford Cords. Colored and Black Whip Cords.

ALL THE NEW SHADES IN Henrietta and Serges.

Special Attention Called to our Beautiful Assortment of

ALL WOOL DRESS GOODS, In Plain and Fancies, 40 Inches Wide, AT 50c. A YARD.

J. S. Rhodes & Co.

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SWIFT SAFETY

Best on Earth.

Rigid and spring frames. Solid cushion and pneumatic tires. Patent roller tempered chain ball bearings. 100,000 in use. Machines and cushion tires guaranteed.

Send for catalogue to JASON C. STAMP, my25 Agent, Wheeling, W. Va.

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In the following widths: 30, 36, 48, 60, 72 Inches wide, in rolls of 25 and 50 yards, or cut any length to order.

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DRUGGISTS. THE "PRINCESS" Headache Powders.

CURES IN TEN MINUTES. —FOR SALE BY DRUGGISTS.—

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2,000 New Fall and Winter Samples FOR GENTS' SUITS AND OVERCOATS.

—RECEIVED BY— J. M. FERREL, 1220 Water street.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS. Sealed proposals for the proposed changes to the Atlantic engine house, as amended, will be received by the City of Wheeling, until Thursday, September 4, at 5 o'clock p. m. Plans and specifications can be seen at the City Clerk's office until that date. The right to reject any or all bids. Address bids to F. H. Berry, Chairman Fire Department, marked Proposals for Atlantic Engine House, at the City of Wheeling, W. Va.

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